

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 4, 2008

The County Office of Child Care estimates that, over the past three years, the State has made available over \$2.1 billion in child care funding to Los Angeles County, and that local child care providers have had to return \$162 million of this funding. We need to retain every dime of this funding locally, to ensure that we are meeting the child care needs of families in the most flexible way possible. That includes focusing on expanding full day, full year care and other dire needs we have identified that state funding currently does not effectively address.

Ultimately, I intend to seek legislation to begin to address this problem. San Mateo and San Francisco counties were granted waivers to retain child care funding locally, and I understand they are getting positive results. I would like to see Los Angeles County pursue a similar arrangement.

In addition, I believe that we have a unique opportunity to look at the most effective way of marshaling our resources and knowledge to better structure our county services around the issue of child care. It needs to be continually emphasized that child care is an integral part of the services offered to families who are involved in the County's systems of care. I believe that the best way to do this is to come up with an integrated focus on the importance and necessity of child care to the well-being of the families we serve, in order to develop a targeted effort to reform statewide policies for the better.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer report back within the next 60 days with a recommendation for structuring child care policy that cuts across County departments as well as First 5 LA and LAUP and brings a more integrated focus to this critically important issue.

I FURTHER MOVE that we instruct our legislative advocates in Sacramento to explore possible legislative solutions regarding the issue of retaining unspent child care funding locally, including the possibility of a pilot program similar to those currently underway in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties .

#

NI